

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-17 are pending, and are rejected.

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 11, 12, and 14 are amended.

Applicants submitted an information disclosure statement (IDS) along with the RCE dated February 10, 2004, disclosing three US patents and a Japanese patent cited by the EPO for a corresponding European application. However, applicants did not receive a copy of the IDE indicating that the Examiner has considered the disclosed patents. Applicants request that the Examiner considers the references cited in that IDS and sends applicants a copy of that IDS indicating that the Examiner has considered those patents by signing the copy of that IDS.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Responsive to the rejection of claims 8 and 9 as being indefinite, applicants have amended claims 8 and 9 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention. In particular, claim 8 is amended to recite that if the packet type is not of the particular packet type, the adjustment step increases the time slot duration of the time slot to a predefined duration, support of which can be found, for example, steps 807 and 809 in FIG. 8. Claim 9 is amended to recite that if the packet type is of the particular packet type, the adjusting step increases said time slot duration of said time slot according to the number of packets in the content with the particular packet type, support of which can be found, for example, at page 11, lines 5-10. Applicants submit that the amendments overcome the rejection.

Response to the suggestion that the phrase "a time slot" in line 3 of claim 7 (and line 4 of claims 1 and 4) should be changed to "the time slot," applicants have amended the claims as suggested. However, in order to provide the antecedent basis, applicants also amended the preambles to recite the phrase "a time slot duration of a time slot," because the two phrases "time slot duration" and "time slot" are two different elements. Applicants thank the Examiner for the suggestion.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Responsive to the rejection, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-17 are patentable over US 6,088,362 ("Turnbull") in view of US 5,128,928 ("Wilder") and US 6,408,008 ("Komarek"), further in view of US 6,693,885 ("Sydon"), as discussed below, and request reconsideration.

In this Office Action, the newly cited tertiary reference Sydon replaces US 6,240,077 ("Vuong") used in the previous Office Action dated August 11, 2003. According to the Response to Arguments on page 7 of this Office Action, Sydon discloses the feature of adjusting time slot duration because, at col. 6, lines 14-18, Sydon states that the time duration of inactive time slots are shortened in comparison with the time duration of active time slots. However, both time durations are fixed during the operation, inactive time slots never become active to transmit data, and active time slots do not change time slot duration even if they are not transmitting data, as discussed below. Thus, Sydon does not disclose or suggest the feature of adjusting time slot duration, as alleged, and the modification would not arrive at the claimed invention.

As shown in FIG. 2 of Sydon, DECT (Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunication) should support 24 time slots (channels), 12 for

transmitting information (and data) from a fixed station FS to mobile stations MS, and the other 12 for the opposite direction. See col. 1, lines 58-64. If a slow hopping RF module is used in a standard compliant network, only half of them are active (used for transmitting data), and the other half of the time slots are inactive. See col. 2, lines 17-23. The slow hopping RF module uses the time for an inactive time slot to program the carrier frequency for the next time slot. See col. 2, lines 14-17.

In the US, the 2.4 GHz ISM band is used, which is different from the normal DECT frequency band, and each slot does not have the bandwidth to carry the data rate set forth in the standard. See col. 2, lines 49-53, 65-67. To solve the problem, Sydon increases the duration for an active time slot but decreases the duration of an inactive time slot, while keeping the frame time to 10 ms, the same as set forth in the standard. See col. 1, line 63, col. 3, lines 35-36, col. 6, lines 13-17, and FIG. 4. However, the duration of an active or inactive time slot is fixed. For example, the duration of an active time slot is 833 us and that of an inactive time slot is 417 us. See FIG. 4, and col. 6, lines 17-23. The duration of an active time slot is not changed even if no data is transmitting in that time slot. An inactive slot is not used for transmitting data as discussed above. Thus, Sydon does not disclose or suggest the feature of adjusting a time slot duration of a time slot if data being transmitted in that time slot, as recited in claim 1.

As discussed in the response dated February 10, 2004, to the previous Office Action, Turnbull, Wilder, and Komarek, considered singly and in combination, also do not disclose or suggest the feature of adjusting a time slot duration of a time slot if data being transmitted in that time slot, as recited in

claim 1. Thus, claim 1, and dependent claims 2 and 3, are patentable over the four references.

However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution, applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the feature of if said data are being transmitted in said time slot, determining whether said data is of a particular packet type, and adjusting said time slot duration in response to the data type determination. Support for this feature can be found, for example, on original claim 3, steps 807, 809, and 811 of FIG. 8, and page 10, lines 5-18. Dependent claims 2 and 3 are amended to conform to the changes made to claim 1. None of the references discloses or suggests this feature. As such, applicants submit that amended claim 1, and dependent claims 2 and 3, are patentable over the references for this reason alone.

As discussed in the response dated February 10, 2004, to the previous Office Action, the duration of each time slot disclosed in Turnbull, Wilder, and Komarek is fixed during operation. Thus, there is no need to determine whether said data is of a particular packet type, and adjust the time slot duration in response to the data type determination.

Independent claim 4 also recites the steps of adjusting the time slot duration to a first time period if the data are not being transmitted in the time slot, and adjusting the time slot duration to a second time period if the data are being transmitted in the time slot, as recited in claim 1. Similar to claim 1, independent claim 4 also recites the feature of adjusting a time slot duration to a third time period, if data comprises a particular packet type. Thus, applicants submit that claim 4, and dependent claims 5 and 6, are patentable over the four references for similar reasons made above respect to amended claim 1.

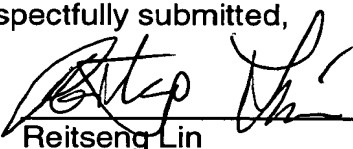
Independent claims 7 and 11 are amended to recite similar features recited in amended claim 1, and respective dependent claims 8-9, and 12 and 14 are amended to conform to the changes made to amended claims 7 and 11. As such, the arguments made above with respect to amended claim 1 are also applicable to amended claims 7 and 11, and applicants submit that amended claims 7 and 11, and respective dependent claims 8-10 and 12-14, are patentable over the four references.

Independent claim 15 recites similar features recited in both claims 1 and 7. Thus, claim 15, and dependent claims 16 and 17, are also patentable over the four references.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

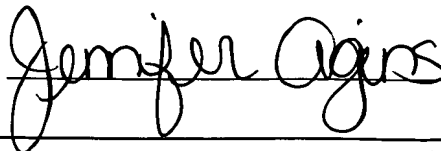

By: Reitseng Lin
Reg. No. 42,804
Phone (609) 734-6813

Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312
August 9, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to [Mail Stop Amendment], Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

August 9, 2004
Date


Jennifer Agins